

## LIFESTYLE COLUMNISTS

# Travel Texas for your summer vacation

*Yesterday 7:15 p.m.*

Although vacations are important for our health, they can be bad for the health of our wallets. Why not let your Abilene Public Library help you plan a customized Texas vacation that won't stress you or your bank account?

We have lots of resources with many ideas for getting out of town and doing something completely different.

Of course, your library also has all of the general travel planning books, including "Mobil Travel Guide: Texas" and "Frommer's Texas." These general guidebooks have plenty of information about the state's large metropolitan areas, and somewhat less about smaller towns such as San Angelo and Abilene. Remember, however that these guidebooks are meant for travelers from outside Texas and mostly hit the highlights.

The Texas Department of Transportation publishes some handy travel aids, including the "Accommodations Guide" and the "2016 Texas State Travel Guide." These guides have information about Texas cities and towns of almost every size. They are available in our reference section, or we can tell you how to get a free copy for yourself.

If you have children, you'll want to see the "Exploring ... with Children" travel series. Your library has "Exploring Texas with

Children," and individual books and e-books on Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio. This series is subtitled "A Guide for Family Activities" and it fills the bill, with kid-friendly advice on everything from places to stay and eat to historical locations and performing art venues.

Maybe Fido is your traveling companion. "Traveling With Your Pet: The AAA Petbook" is a guide to more than 14,000 pet-friendly, AAA-approved hotels and campgrounds across the United States and Canada.

If you'd like a different kind of vacation, you might want to look at "Natural Wonders of Texas: A Guide to Parks, Preserves and Wild Places" by Paul and Sunita Cooke. This guide is an outdoor lovers delight, with information about everything from the Padre Island National Seashore to the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute to the Big Thicket National Preserve.

The book is divided into geographic areas, so whether you're looking for wonders close to home or further afield, this is a great guide.

Other vacation opportunities can be explored through "Ramble Texas: A Wanderer's Guide to the Offbeat, Overlooked and Outrageous" by Eric Peterson; "Backroads & Byways of Texas: Drives, Day Trips & Weekend Excursions" by Amy K. Brown; or perhaps "The Book Lover's Tour of Texas" by Jessie Gunn Stephens.

Add these titles to the great mapping and routing sites your library offers through our free internet access, and planning a fun vacation at a reasonable cost becomes much less difficult. Drop by any Abilene Public Library location and find your own way to "Travel Texas" this summer.

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